

January 20, 1999

## More Globaloney and Big Risks, for No U.S. National Interest **The 'Era of Big Government': *It's Ba-aack!***

In his 1996 State of the Union address, Bill Clinton declared the "era of big government" to be over. But last night, with characteristic shamelessness, he forgot his earlier pronouncement and outlined a host of new programs that will easily approach *half a trillion dollars* in new spending. With this renewed era of bigger government, Bill Clinton threatens to close his term as "the last headache of the 20<sup>th</sup> century," not as some nonexistent bridge to the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Here's a quick look at some of the Clinton proposals in the area of foreign policy that will entail a lot of **Big Spending** and the growth of **Big Government** — in this case, global government:

### **Hey, Big Spender!**

- ▶ **Iraq.** The bill for last month's Operation Desert Fox is not yet in (expected to be in the \$800 million to \$1 billion range), but it is clear that the mission did little or nothing to weaken the regime of Saddam Hussein or set back his weapons programs. On the contrary, the only clear results of the suspiciously-timed 70-hour operation were to *strengthen* Saddam (who afterward openly rejected weapons inspections), increase pressure for the U.N. Security Council to increase Iraq's oil exports (and Saddam's revenues), and expose U.S. isolation (since only Britain joined in).
- ▶ **Bosnia.** Clinton lauded the open-ended, nation-building mission in Bosnia, which has racked up some \$10 billion dollars to date — with no end date in sight (in violation of repeated Clinton promises). After more than three years of NATO occupation, Bosnia is as divided as it was when U.S. troops arrived in 1995, the ethnic factions remain unreconciled, and radical *mujaheddin* present a danger to U.S. personnel, despite Administration claims. [See RPC's "Clinton-Approved Iranian Arms Transfers Help Turn Bosnia into Militant Islamic Base," 1/16/97.]
- ▶ **Kosovo.** If you liked Bosnia, you'll love the new mission Clinton has promised in the Serbian province of Kosovo, another intervention based on melodramatic media coverage, questionable (at best) U.S. interests, and no realistic exit strategy. [See RPC's

"Bosnia II: The Clinton Administration Sets Course for NATO Intervention in Kosovo," 8/12/98.]

- ▶ **Middle East.** With last year's Wye River Agreement (not to mention the Netanyahu government in Israel) increasingly shaky, Clinton has committed the United States to some \$400 million in new support for the Palestinian Authority (PA), on top of the \$500 million in U.S. taxpayer funds they've already been given. The results to date: increasing clashes between Jews and Arabs, Israeli unwillingness to turn more land over to the PA in the face of increased terrorism (by Islamic radicals the PA can't — or won't — suppress), rampant misuse or theft of PA funds (40 percent according to the PA's own internal audit, *Sunday Times* (London), 11/29/98), and an increasing likelihood of Palestinian statehood. Bill Clinton also neglected to mention the unnecessary complication he added to the Wye mix: the possible release of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard — a trial balloon shot down by his own national security advisers!

## Big Brother, Big Government

- ▶ **Terrorism.** Last night Clinton promised to "defend our security" from the threat of international terrorism, citing last year's bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. What he didn't mention: that Secretary of State Albright had "rebuffed desperate pleas" from the U.S. ambassador in Kenya (where 200 people were killed) for enhanced security (*Newsweek*, 1/18/99). Also, he avoided mention of the (very suspiciously timed) August 1998 retaliatory cruise missile strike at the Al Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum, Sudan, which was based on "vague" information regarding the plant's terrorist connections (*ABC News Saturday Night*, 1/14/99). And there is no indication that the Clinton Administration has considered whether its own indiscriminately interventionist policy (called "assertive multilateralism" by Secretary Albright) may be contributing to increased terrorism against the United States. [See "The New Threat of Mass Destruction," *Foreign Affairs*, January-February 1998.]
- ▶ **NATO.** Bill Clinton promised to define "new missions" for NATO — a clear reference to the Administration's "new NATO" doctrine, which would effectively turn the alliance into a regional peacekeeping organization, a sure recipe for more Bosnia- and Kosovo-type missions. [See RPC's Legislative Notice No. 55, Treaty Doc. 105-36, 3/18/98.] He also vowed to "expand" the alliance once again, less than a year after 41 Senators (more than enough to defeat a treaty) voted for a three-year pause before admitting new members. [See Vote No. 112, 105<sup>th</sup> Cong., 2d Sess., 4/30/98.]
- ▶ **China.** Clinton promised more of his see-no-evil policy toward China, despite serious concerns regarding transfers of sensitive U.S. technology, including satellite technology; Chinese proliferation of missile technology to rogue states; and a human rights record (including persecution of Christians) that has been getting *worse*, not better.

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